



Yosemite Valley Integrated Utility Master Plan

What is this project about?

The existing utility infrastructure serving Yosemite Valley was identified in the *Yosemite Valley Plan* as being inadequate due to its age, condition, inadequate capacity, inaccessibility to future facilities, and inappropriate location in environmentally sensitive areas.

The Yosemite Valley Integrated Utility Master Plan identifies consolidated utility corridors. It will allow the park to design and construct utility systems that provide adequate service to existing facilities as well as those proposed in the *Yosemite Valley Plan*, while minimizing environmental impacts and allowing for maximum restoration of sensitive ecological areas. Adoption of a Yosemite Valley Integrated Utility Master Plan will ensure that the park's investment in infrastructure provides for efficient utility services that protect park resources over the long term.

The utility systems addressed in the Yosemite Valley Integrated Utility Master Plan include potable water, sanitary sewage, power, and to a more limited extent communications.

What are some of the individual actions that will be considered in the site plan?

This project includes identification of integrated utility corridors in Yosemite Valley, development of a phased plan to implement these utility changes, and construction of needed utility infrastructure within the identified corridors. This project will also address removal or abandonment of existing utility systems that are to be relocated out of environmentally sensitive areas.

- In locating utility corridors, consideration will be given to locations beneath or adjacent to service roads and paths and existing utility corridors located outside of sensitive resource areas such as wetlands, meadows, or archeological sites.
- In locating river crossings, the Yosemite Valley Integrated Utility Master Plan will address reduction of the total number of river crossings, including reuse of existing crossings located in preferable locations, and locating new crossings in environmentally preferable locations.

The Yosemite Valley Integrated Utility Master Plan will also incorporate use of sustainable design principles for utility systems. This will include use of renewable and emerging technology energy systems; use of energy efficient designs; the upgrading of existing facilities in lieu of replacing with new ones where possible; and the use of materials made from renewable or recycled products.

What are the next steps?

The National Park Service is currently in the process of developing alternatives for the Yosemite Valley Integrated Utility Master Plan and preparation of the environmental assessment is underway. Public scoping on this project was concluded on March 14, 2003.

A National Park Service Public Open House in Yosemite Valley will present information on the project purpose and potential alternatives. Please refer to the park planning web site as listed below for dates and times of future events.

Public Participation

Public participation in the planning process is critical. Here are some ways to stay involved in the Yosemite Valley Integrated Utility Master Plan:

- Attend a National Park Service's Public Open House on to obtain more information on the project. Check the park's web site for future dates.
- Review and comment on the Yosemite Valley Integrated Utility Master Plan Environmental Assessment when it becomes available in late spring of 2003.
- Add your name to the park's planning mailing list (to address/fax/email below) and receive the *Planning Update* newsletter as well as other planning-related notices.

All comments must be submitted in writing to be considered and will be accepted in the following ways:

Mail:	Superintendent Attn: Yosemite Valley Integrated Utility Master Plan P.O. Box 577 Yosemite, CA 95389
Fax:	209/379-1294
Email:	Yose_Planning@nps.gov

The status of this and other Yosemite National Park improvement projects will be periodically updated on the park's planning web site. Visit online:
www.nps.gov/yose/planning.